

Address for correspondence:

An Bord Pleanála,
64 Marlborough Street,
Dublin 1.

Observation to An Bord Pleanála in respect of ABP-301328-18: Aldi, Passage West, Co. Cork

To whom it may concern,

We, the undersigned, are making this observation on the above planning appeal to express our huge support for the Aldi Ireland planning application for the former Eurospar store in Passage West, Co. Cork. Please find enclosed the relevant fee of €50 to which each of the undersigned has contributed €5.

Passage West/Monkstown is a designated satellite town of Cork City with a population of 6,000 and a significant catchment area. Although the town continues to grow, it has a few services, very limited retail and no supermarket. The promise of Aldi's opening in the former Eurospar store is one of the most exciting developments in Passage West in recent years for which we and the entire town have been waiting with much anticipation. We cannot understand why an appeal would be taken in respect of this practical and badly needed proposal.

- The Aldi planning application is for some minor modifications to an existing, purpose-built supermarket. The building operated as a supermarket from 2008 until March 2017. It has good road frontage, good parking and significant passing traffic.
- There has never been an issue with traffic associated with this supermarket in all the years in which it operated previously. In the near future, the store's entrance/exit will be improved yet further as it will be accessed from a new roundabout to be built as part of the nearby Harbour Heights residential development (planning ref. 16/7217).
- Aldi's proposal will in fact reduce traffic on the highly congested R610 and in the adjacent congested towns of Douglas and Carrigaline as it will eliminate the need for Passage West residents to travel further afield for their daily and weekly shopping.
- Without Aldi's proposal, this purpose-built supermarket building would sit vacant at the entrance to the town, contributing to the existing above-average commercial vacancy rate of 26% in Passage West. Aldi will bring badly needed vibrancy, life and business.

Had Aldi not wanted to make these minor changes to the building, it could have simply opened in this former supermarket without any need for a planning application. We urge the Board to expedite the grant of this planning permission so Aldi can act on its practical, badly needed and very welcome proposal for our town.

Signed:

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| 9. _____ | 10. _____ |